

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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TREASURY:L BOWDEN

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S/S :FORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USSAEC, EGEN, SA

SUBJECT: REELECTRIFICATION OF RIYADH

REF: (A) JIDDA 4137; (B) JIDDA 4009; (C) STATE 133550

1. AGREE THAT USG MUST RESPOND POSITIVELY AND PROMPTLY TO SAG REQUEST FOR HELP THROUGH JOINT COMMISSION IN ALLEVIATING RIYADH'S ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS. AT SAME TIME, WE MUST NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE UPON USG RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOLVING RIYADH'S PROBLEMS OR FOR SHARING WITH SAG THE SELECTION OF LONG-TERM CONTRACTORS. AS EMBASSY NOTES, SUCH ROLE IS QUOTE NO WIN UNQUOTE PROPOSITION.

2. AS DEFINED IN REF A, IMMEDIATE NEED IS TO PRESCRIBE SET OF PRACTICAL QUICK-FIX MEASURES WHICH SNEC AND ELEMENTS OF SAG SHOULD EXECUTE WITH SUCH FOREIGN
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TECHNICAL HELP AS MAY BE REQUIRED AND TO ADVISE SNEC AND

SAG IN EXECUTION OF THESE SHORT TERM MEASURES. SUCH EXPERT APPRAISAL MAY INDICATE NEED FOR AMENDING AND ACCELERATING DECISIONS ON PENDING CONTRACT WITH KULJIAN OR MAIN SO AS TO INCLUDE SOME INTERIM IMPROVEMENT WORK IN ADDITION TO LONGER TERM STRENGTHENING OF RIYADH DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND POWER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT. IT ALSO

MAY SUGGEST RECRUITMENT BY A PRIVATE COMPANY EXPERIENCED IN THAT AREA OF EXPATRIATE TECHNICIANS TO REINFORCE SNEC. DISCUSSIONS WITH KULJIAN AND ARAMCO GENERALLY CONFIRM THIS APPRAISAL.

3. ON BASIS OF FOREGOING UNDERSTANDING OF REQUIREMENT, WE HAVE OBTAINED AGREEMENT, SUBJECT TO SAG CONFIRMATION, OF WALKER CISLER, PRESIDENT OF OVERSEAS ADVISORY ASSOCIATES, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, TO ORGANIZE AND LEAD EXPERT APPRAISAL/ADVISORY TEAM. CISLER IS FORMER PRESIDENT OF EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF DETROIT EDISON COMPANY. HE IS MOST EXPERIENCED U.S. AUTHORITY ON ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, AND HAD BEEN PLANNING VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA IN JULY AT REQUEST OF MINISTER YAMANI. OVERSEAS ADVISORY ASSOCIATES IS NON-PROFIT PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATION WHICH DRAWS ON RETIRED EXECUTIVES AND TECHNICIANS OF U.S. AND EUROPEAN POWER COMPANIES, BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, TO UNDERTAKE SHORT-TERM ADVISORY SERVICES. IT DOES NOT COMPETE WITH PRIVATE ENGINEERING FIRMS. FOR EXAMPLE, IRAN'S NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ORIGINATED WITH CISLER'S RECOMMENDATIONS. CISLER BELIEVES HE CAN ASSEMBLE GOOD TEAM IMMEDIATELY, BUT NO FIRM UNDERSTANDINGS ON NUMBERS OR TIME OF DEPARTURE REACHED PENDING MEETING HERE AT 1600 GMT WEDNESDAY.

4. CORPS OF ENGINEERS SPECIALIST AND POSSIBLY COLONEL GREY, WILL ATTEND MEETING AND DISCUSS INFORMAL ASSISTANCE THEY CAN GIVE CISLER TEAM IN ANALYZING PROBLEM AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. WE DO NOT, ON BASIS OF REF A REPORT, SEE NEED FOR MANAGEMENT ROLE FOR CORPS IN SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTION OF DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES BUT WILL LEAVE THIS OPEN FOR TEAM'S APPRAISAL.
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5. REQUEST SAG APPROVAL OF THIS APPROACH AND AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF JOINT COMMISSION TRUST FUND FOR TRAVEL AND OTHER COSTS OF OVERSEAS ADVISORY ASSOCIATES IN CARRYING OUT SHORT-TERM TASK OUTLINED ABOVE. IF POSSIBLE, SUCH AUTHORITY SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY 1600 GMT JUNE 11 TO FACILITATE DECISIONS AND NEGOTIATION OF LETTER-CONTRACT. IN PRESENTING THIS OFFER OF

ASSISTANCE, RIYADH JOINT COMMISSION REPS OR EMBASSY
SHOULD ASSURE FULL UNDERSTANDING BY ABA AL-KHAYL OF
LIMITATIONS STATED IN PARA 1 ABOVE. KISSINGER

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